

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with S. Peter Ludwig on 10/27/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. A method for processing a document that includes a plurality of fields having respective contents that have been filled into the fields, the method comprising:
providing labels to be assigned respectively to the fields, and one or more rules applicable to the filled-in contents of the fields according to the labels assigned thereto, and one or more geometrical rules indicating an expected geometrical relationship between two or more of the fields according to the labels assigned thereto;
machine reading the respective contents that have been filled into the fields;
machine assigning the labels to the fields by testing the contents of the fields against the rules in order to find an assignment of the labels to the fields that satisfies

the rules, the assigning further applying the geometrical rules along with the rules applicable to the contents of the fields; and

extracting and arranging the contents in a database record, in which the contents of the fields are identified by the assigned labels.

6. Cancelled.

13. An apparatus for processing a document that includes a plurality of fields having respective contents that have been filled into the fields, the apparatus comprising:

a document processor arranged to receive a listing of labels to be assigned respectively to the fields, and one or more rules applicable to the filled-in contents of the fields according to the labels assigned thereto, and one or more geometrical rules indicating an expected geometrical relationship between two or more of the fields according to the labels assigned thereto;

the document processor; ~~and~~ further arranged to machine read the respective contents that have been filled into the fields;

the document processor ~~and~~ to machine assign the labels to the fields by testing the contents of the fields against the rules in order to find an assignment of the labels to the fields that satisfies the rules;

the document processor arranged to apply the geometrical rules along with the rules applicable to the contents of the fields so as to assign the labels to the fields; and

the document processor to extract and arrange the contents in a database record, in which the contents of the field are identified by the assigned labels.

18. Cancelled.

25. Cancelled.

28. An apparatus for data processing comprising:

a form processor, ~~which is~~ arranged to receive information that has been filled into a plurality of fields in a form on a computer, ~~and to receive~~ a listing of labels to be assigned respectively to the fields, and one or more geometrical rules indicating an expected geometrical relationship between two or more of the filled-in fields in the form according to the labels assigned to the fields; ~~and to~~

the form processor to assign the labels to the fields by testing the information in the fields against the rules in order to find an assignment of the labels to the fields that satisfies the rules; and

the form processor to extract and arrange the information in a database record, in which the information that has been filled into the fields is identified by the assigned labels.

29. A computer software product; comprising a computer readable tangible medium in which program instructions are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer, cause the computer to;

receive information that has been filled into a plurality of fields in a computerized form, ~~and to receive~~ a listing of labels to be assigned respectively to the fields, and one or more geometrical rules indicating an expected geometrical relationship between two or more of the filled-in fields in the form according to the labels assigned to the fields;
~~and to~~

assign the labels to the fields by testing the information in the fields against the rules in order to find an assignment of the labels to the fields that satisfies the rules;
~~and to~~

extract and arrange the information in a database record, in which the information that has been filled into the fields is identified by the assigned labels.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RACHNA S. DESAI whose telephone number is (571)272-4099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30AM-6:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rachna S Desai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2176
10/27/09